

Q. What is the Primary Election?

A. The Primary Election is an election by the political parties to nominate their candidates for the General Election ballot. ***No one is elected in a Primary election***; candidates are *nominated*. In order to win a political party nomination, the candidate must receive more votes than anyone else in his/her party for that race and receive at least 35% of the votes cast for that office by members of their political party.

Q. Why is the Primary Election different from other types of elections?

A. The difference between Primary Elections and other elections is that a voter's party affiliation must be declared and it must be included on election registers, eligibility slips, absentee ballot requests and absentee ballot affidavits.

Q. If I am registered as No Party can I still vote in the Primary Election?

A. Yes. However, you will have to re-register with one of the two parties in order to cast a ballot. Only voters registered with one of the two parties (Democratic or Republican) may vote in the Primary Election.

Q. Can I change my party affiliation at the time that I vote?

A. Yes.

Q. If I declare one party to vote for in the Primary Election can I change back to my previous registration?

A. Yes. However, you may not do so the same day as voting. You will need to complete a new [voter registration application](#). The change will be processed after the Primary Election has been certified and vote credit has been posted for every voter.

Q. If I vote a Democratic ballot, can I write in a Republican for an office and vice-versa?

A. Primary election voters are making nominations for their own political parties. A write-in vote for a Republican candidate on a Democratic ballot will be tallied as a Democratic vote, not a Republican vote.

Q. How do nonpartisan candidates get on a ballot?

A. Nonpartisan candidates will file nomination papers for the General Election (November 8, 2016). The Primary Election is held to nominate political party candidates to the General Election ballot; therefore, candidates not affiliated with either political party cannot participate in the Primary Election.